

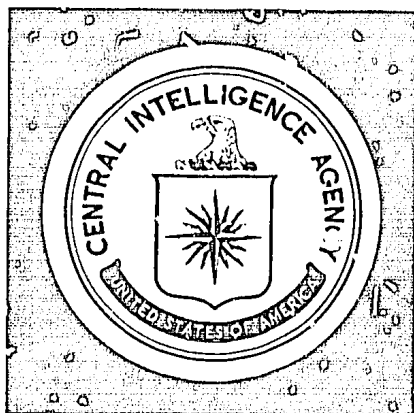
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN
6 MAY 1972

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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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SOUTH VIETNAM: Enemy regiments continue to regroup and move closer to the cities of Hue and Kontum in preparation for the next assault, but the lull in Communist attacks continues.

Fire Support Base Birmingham, ten miles west of Hue, was hit yesterday by heavy fire from North Vietnamese 130-mm. artillery. Casualties were light, but the increased use of artillery by the enemy near Hue suggests that other defensive positions around the city may soon come under heavy fire.

25X1C

To the south, in Quang Tin Province, [] the Communists hope to follow up the recent capture of Hiep Duc town by attacking Tam Ky, the provincial capital.

25X1C

The Communists are continuing to shell An Loc daily; over 700 rounds were fired on 4 May. The government has flown in more supplies and replacements and has evacuated additional wounded by helicopter. The South Vietnamese 21st Division remains bogged down on Route 13 south of An Loc and shows no signs of moving toward the besieged town. This apparent reticence, and the abandonment of an artillery base in the vicinity, cast doubt on the determination of the South Vietnamese forces sent to relieve An Loc.

The command post of a 21st Division regiment was struck by an enemy wire-guided missile, but no damage has been reported. This is the first time this weapon has been used in Military Region 3. It already has been used with more telling effect in each of the other three regions. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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NORTH VIETNAM: An important North Vietnamese military commentator with an established preference for main-force warfare has characterized the current offensive as only the first part of a prolonged military initiative.

In an article on 3 May, the writer, who uses the pseudonym "Chien Thang," claims that Communist successes in Laos and Cambodia last year prepared the way for the current effort, and that the Communists now have sufficient "latent strength" in Vietnam "to fight protractedly and on a large scale." Discussing the current action, he describes the "enlarged liberated areas" as "extended offensive springboards," and adds that the Communists are "fully holding the initiative."

The article is similar in some ways to much of Hanoi's standard propaganda. By linking the current offensive to a broad military plan, however, "Chien Thang" also seems to be signaling to the North Vietnamese people and armed forces, as well as to the US and Saigon, that North Vietnam does not intend to settle for its military gains thus far, and that Hanoi has not yet exhausted its military resources. To this extent, his glowing assessment may well reflect rising expectations and hardened determination within the highest echelons of the leadership.

Over the past year, "Chien Thang" and other commentators have surfaced from time to time in the North Vietnamese press to advocate "big offensives" and conventional warfare. They may now feel that they have been vindicated by events in South Vietnam. In his latest piece, "Chien Thang" in fact asserts that the Communists' "glorious victories across the battlefield have most clearly proven that our guidance of the revolutionary war is very correct."

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Thus, while such posturing is obviously to some extent simply for morale purposes, it may also be an indication that after the first month of the offensive, the leadership is genuinely convinced it made the right decision. There is a strong hint in the "Chien Thang" article that at least some North Vietnamese leaders are increasingly confident that continued military action will alter the course of the conflict decisively. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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URUGUAY: President Bordaberry may be losing the legislative initiative on major policy decisions to the leader of the largest opposition bloc.

Blanco Senator Wilson Ferreira has supported the government's state of internal war, which is due to expire on 15 May, but has indicated that his continued co-operation depends on Bordaberry's moving against rightist terrorist groups. Last month several of the president's emergency powers were suspended because Ferreira sided with the leftist Frente Amplio coalition. Although Bordaberry has since received congressional approval for a temporary suspension of constitutional guarantees to deal with terrorist violence, the government was forced to release approximately 150 prisoners this week in compliance with a legislative deadline for holding persons without trial.

Ferreira's tactics have pre-empted issues that the Frente Amplio had hoped to use to discredit both the major parties. While individual Frente Amplio Senators have succeeded in occasionally embarrassing the administration on the issue of counter-terrorism, the coalition has been unable to develop a unified opposition strategy. This failure may be attributed to internal dissension produced by the efforts of non-Communist leaders such as Zelmar Michelini and Enrique Erro to form their own blocs within the Frente. Consequently, Frente leaders have not been as forceful critics of the administration as Ferreira and the Blancos.

Although Bordaberry is showing more political skill than many expected, he will have to move decisively and skillfully if he is not to lose out completely in policy matters to Ferreira--especially if Ferreira agrees to come into the administration. Ferreira had rejected an earlier presidential offer to participate in the administration, but official sources speculate that he is reconsidering this decision. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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UN: Attempts to admit East Germany to membership and to suspend Israel will be important issues at the meeting opening in Geneva next week of the Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO).

East Germany has a standing application for membership in WHO. Under the so-called "Vienna formula," entry into any UN-related organization facilitates entry into the others and to UN-sponsored conferences. The attraction that WHO has always had for Pankow is its relatively lenient terms for admission; only a simple majority is required rather than the two-thirds vote needed in other agencies. The Soviets are giving especially strong support this year to the East Germans and have noted that Pankow's membership in WHO would ensure the USSR's participation in the UN environmental conference at Stockholm next month.

The WHO director general's decision to grant East Germany observer status at the meeting may have been influenced by Secretary General Waldheim's views. The Soviets have been putting pressure on Waldheim on the German issue, and his posture reflects not only his public views on admission of the divided countries but also a desire to have the Soviets show up at Stockholm. In spite of the East European campaign, current estimates are that the Assembly will defer consideration of Pankow's application by a margin approximating last year's 28 votes.

More problematic is the outcome of the anticipated Arab effort to suspend Israel's voting privileges and deny it WHO services, on grounds that Tel Aviv has failed to provide adequately for the health of persons in the territories occupied since the 1967 war. Although propagandistic resolutions condemning Israel have been passed by the WHO Assembly before, the expected call this year for agency sanctions is unprecedented. Should the matter be decided by a simple majority rather than a two-thirds

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vote--a procedural issue decided by a simple majority--the Israelis might well lose. A loss would undoubtedly encourage the Arabs to make similar moves against Israel in other UN agencies. (CONFIDENTIAL NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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CYPRUS: Foreign Minister Kyprianou has submitted his resignation. According to Nicosia press reports, Makarios told his cabinet on Thursday that Athens was insisting on the removal of Kyprianou, and that in view of this, the foreign minister decided to leave his post immediately. Makarios also told his colleagues that, at the insistence of Athens, he will carry out a government reshuffle early next month. Since the crisis began three months ago, the Greeks have tried to persuade Makarios to rid his government of Communist sympathizers and appoint persons more amenable to Athens. The archbishop, however, has denied that any of his ministers are associated with Communists. Nevertheless, in an attempt to placate the Greeks, he probably will remove a few cabinet members who are objectionable to Athens, but he will also use the opportunity to dismiss at least three ministers who have been giving him trouble in recent months. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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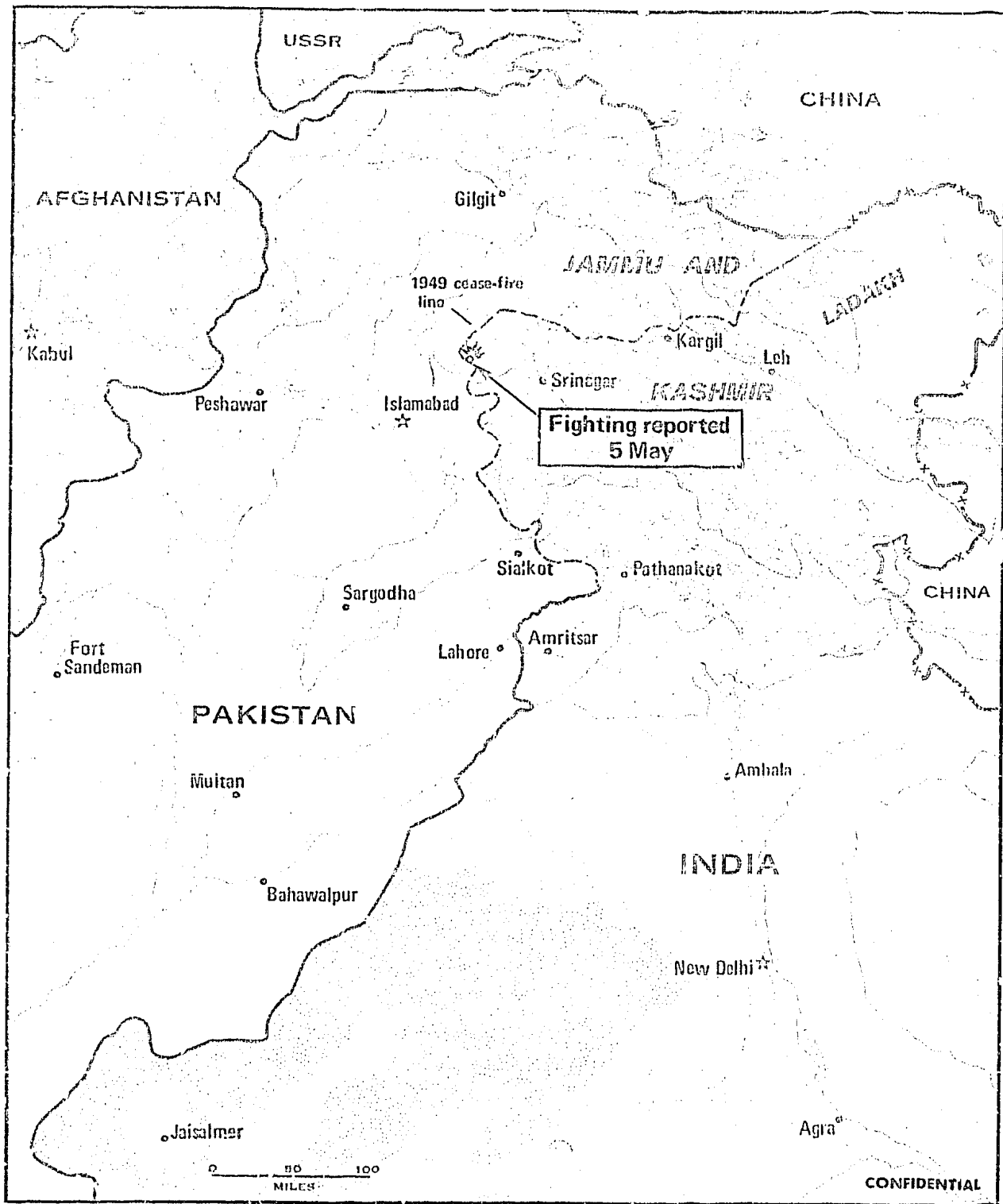
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INDIA-PAKISTAN: Heated accusations of cross-border attacks along the mountainous Kashmir cease-fire line, issued in New Delhi and Islamabad yesterday, indicate that the latest clash may be on a larger scale than violations reported since the cease-fire in 1971. Fighting reportedly erupted Friday morning, evidently as a result of actions by local commanders, between several infantry battalions supported by artillery in a key area contested during both the 1965 and 1971 wars. New Delhi described the incident as the "strongest" infraction to date of the 1971 cease-fire; Islamabad deemed it a "serious" situation and lodged a complaint with the UN Kashmir observation team. In view of the upcoming Gandhi-Bhutto summit, which both sides hope will produce positive results, it is unlikely that either government would permit the current clash to escalate into a major confrontation. (CONFIDENTIAL)

* * * *

BURUNDI: Government forces are making steady headway against rebel enclaves in the south after a week of bloody fighting. President Micombero told the diplomatic corps on Thursday that he expected the major center of rebel activity to be in government hands this weekend. Despite the favorable military situation, the government is only barely functioning as a consequence of Micombero's dismissal of his cabinet just prior to the outbreak of violence. After the insurrection is put down, Micombero will still face serious problems putting together a new government and dampening tribal tensions brought to the surface by the fighting. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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(C) CAMBODIA: The Communists attacked a major bridge early this morning near downtown Phnom Penh, but damage to the structure appears to have been light. Cambodian troops repulsed a ground assault near the bridge, and Communist rocket and mortar fire set ablaze a nearby petroleum tank. Communist rockets also did some damage at the Pochentong airfield on the outskirts of the city. The attack is the first in the Phnom Penh area since late March.
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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 5 May 1972 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 32-72: "Pakistan: Short-Term Problems and Prospects" (SECRET)

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